

IN THE CLAIMS

1.(Currently amended) A seal assembly for closing off an annular space between a first and second nested body and supported by at least one of said first and second bodies, comprising:

an annularly shaped body having an upper and a lower end;

at least one backup ring mounted on one of said ends of said body and having a relaxed dimension greater than the annular space between said first and second bodies so that opposed ends on said backup ring must be compressed to be inserted in the annular gap, said backup ring further comprising a bend between said opposed ends to store a force created by insertion of said backup ring into the annular space and apply said force on said opposed ends against said first and second bodies; and

said ends of the backup ring loop toward each other to create a gripping engagement with said body under a residual force upon initial mounting to said body.

2. (Previously amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein:

said body urges said ends of the backup ring away from each other.

3. Cancelled

4. Cancelled

5. (Currently amended)

A seal assembly for closing off an annular space between a first and second nested body and supported by at least one of said first and second bodies, comprising:

DO NOT ENTER AMENDMENT